

## **Finding Aid of 33MSS-98: The Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts Records, 1992-2009**

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Repository:** Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, N.C.

**Creator:** Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts

**Title:** 33MSS-98 Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts Records, 1992 - 2009

**Language of Materials:** English

**Location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please contact the Outer Banks History Center, [www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov](http://www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov).

#### **Abstract:**

The mission of the Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts is to promote an appreciation of, and involvement in, the performing arts on the Outer Banks and nearby areas through the presentation of an annual series of affordable concerts by diverse artists. The Forum is a non-profit organization and provides opportunities for youth to participate in the arts. The Forum's season runs from September to May. All performances are partially underwritten by community businesses.

The Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts Records contain financial records, correspondence, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, photographs, information on grants, performers, and programs.

#### **Extent:**

5.17 cubic feet

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

#### **Copyright Notice:**

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**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of Item] 33MSS-98, Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts Records, Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, NC., U.S.A.

**Acquisitions Information:** Donated by the Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts.

## **Processing Information**

**Processed by:** Tama Creef and Kelly R. Grimm, December 2009

**Encoded by:** Kelly R. Grimm, December 2009

## **Biographical/Historical Note:**

In 1983, a group of concerned citizens held a meeting at the Southern Shores Fire Station to explore the idea of bringing performing arts to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Charles Herman, joined by his wife Betty, Andy Cagiano, Doug Wilson, Paul and Lillian Oswald, Randall Wrenn, Ann Parlette, and Warren Davis became the nucleus of what was to become the Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts.

Initially admission to performances was free and performers were selected from local residents. Among the first performers were Dr. Lily Chou, Dick Jordan, Susan Archbell, Vera Evans, and Ellie Cushing. Though the majority of the shows were held in the Kitty Hawk Elementary School Auditorium, other venues included the Baum Center, Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, and Kitty Hawk Baptist Church. Eventually the Kitty Hawk Elementary School's auditorium became the Forum's home, until 2004, when the venue changed to the newly constructed First Flight High School's auditorium. Eventually, the Forum's Board determined that if the Forum was to grow, they would need to expand their search for performers, and would need to pay for their fees and travel expenses. The initial performance fee averaged \$300.

Today the Forum has grown to become an incorporated, non-profit, tax-exempt organization of over 400 members. The operation of its business is closely managed by a twelve member, volunteer board of directors that includes a finance professional as treasurer.

By underwriting many of the Forum programs, the local business community has enabled the organization to attract high quality jazz, opera, symphonic, dramatic, and vocal performances. Other funding comes from subscriptions, ticket sales, and an annual campaign for contributions from individuals in the area. An effort has been made to keep ticket prices as low as possible to provide access to a broad audience.

Cooperative liaisons exist with the North Carolina Arts Council, Dare County Arts Council, Theatre of Dare, and North Carolina School of the Arts. Through the use of Kitty Hawk High School for performances, the Forum has established a mutually beneficial arrangement between the organization and the schools. Each year, the Forum awards a scholarship to a high school graduate entering the performing arts. Young people are encouraged to participate and help with staging of performances and producing the programs. The Forum's season runs from September-May.

## **Collection Overview:**

The Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts Records contains financial records, correspondence, meeting minutes, newspaper clippings, photographs, and information on grants, performers, and programs.

### **Collection Arrangement:**

This collection is divided into twelve main series: Board Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, Financial Records, Grants, Membership and Subscriptions, Sustaining Fund, Performers and Programs, Organizational Papers, Other Organizations, Scrapbooks, Publicity, and Photographs.

### **Online Catalog Headings:**

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

### **Subject Terms**

Concerts--North Carolina--Outer Banks  
Dare County Arts Council  
Outer Banks Forum for the Lively Arts  
Performing arts--North Carolina--Outer Banks

### **Geographic Terms**

Dare County (N.C.)  
Outer Banks (N.C.)

### **Related Collections:**

Additional information on topics found in this collection may be found in the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) <http://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/BasicSearch.aspx>.

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